

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate of Carolyn R. Bradish)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
)	
Certificate 228055)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 13, 2008. On March 12, 2008, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Bradish notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate resulting from her breach of contract with the Pickens County School District (District) for the 2007-2008 school year by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Bradish received the notice on March 13, 2008, as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Bradish has not requested a hearing concerning this matter.

After careful deliberation of the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board found that Ms. Bradish breached her contract with the District and voted to suspend Ms. Bradish's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing May 13, 2008, and ending on May 12, 2009.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint by the District seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Carolyn R. Bradish. The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2004).

Ms. Bradish holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has less than two years of teaching experience. Ms. Bradish was employed by the District as an English teacher at Liberty High School, in Liberty, South Carolina, until she requested to resign from her teaching position effective January 17, 2008.

On January 4, 2008, Ms. Bradish requested to be released from her 2007-2008 contract effective January 17, 2008. Ms. Bradish was informed by Annette Craig, Assistant Superintendent for the District, that Ms. Bradish would only be released from her contract if the District were able to hire a qualified, suitable replacement. The District advertised to fill the anticipated vacancy, but had difficulty in finding a suitable replacement for Ms. Bradish.

On January 15, 2008, Ms. Annette G. Craig sent a letter to Ms. Bradish informing her that the Board of Trustees for the District met on January 14, 2008 and voted not to release Ms. Bradish from her contract until a suitable replacement was found. Ms. Craig told Ms. Bradish that she was expected to continue in her present teaching position until the District found a suitable replacement. Ms. Bradish was informed that if she failed to return to her teaching duties with the District, then the District would report her breach of contract to the State Board.

On March 12, 2008, Jim Turner, Director of the Department's Office of Educator Certification, sent a notice letter to Ms. Carolyn Bradish, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery, notifying her that the South Carolina State Board of Education will meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Bradish received the notice on March 13, 2008, as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature.

After careful deliberation of the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend the educator certificate of Carolyn R. Bradish, certificate number 228055, for a period of one year commencing on May 13, 2008, and ending on May 12, 2009.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2004). Failing to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. Upon the formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the State Board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate, for a period not to exceed one calendar year. State education agencies in other states with reciprocal certification agreements shall be notified of the revocation of the certificate. S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-530 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58.4 (1976). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Bradish breached her contract with the Pickens County School District, warranting the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 13, 2008, and ending on May 12, 2009. It is, therefore, ordered that the educator certificate 228055 of Carolyn R. Bradish be suspended for a period of one year, commencing May 13, 2008 through May 12, 2009.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Al Simpson, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 13, 2008